GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:256
ANSWERED ON:14.03.2001
TESTING OF PESTICIDE RESIDUES
RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH;RAM PRASAD SINGH

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Laboratories of Indian Council of Agricultural Research have any scheme/programme for testing pesticide residues;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the monitoring being done for pesticide residues;

(c) whether the Government have assessed the benefit of organic farming in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken to encourage it?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR)

(a) to (d) : A statement is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF THE STARRED QUESTION NUMBER 256 TO BE ANSWI ON 14TH MARCH, 2001 IN THE LOK SABHA.

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Indian Council of Agricultural Research has started an All India Coordinated Research Project on the Pesticide Residues during 1984-85. There are seventeen Co-ordinated Centres of which 15 are located in different State Agricultural Universities and the remaining two are in the ICAR Institutes in the country.The Coordinating Cell of all these centres is located at the Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi.

The main aim of the project is to develop protocols for safe use of pesticides by recommending `good agricultural practices` based on multilocational supervised field trials so that once these recommendations are followed the residues in the food commodities remain well within the prescribed safe limits. Monitoring of pesticide residues is an issue being addressed through the regular supervised field trial operations, Levels of residues of pesticides in agriculture produce, water and soil is also undertaken.

(c) & (d): The Government of India is conscious about the importance of the organic farming.Accordingly, a Task Force on Organic Farming has been constituted for collection of data/information on organic farming and also to make assessment of technologies for suggesting measures to encourage the organic farming.